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XL.—A new Hedgehog from Aden.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG some small mammals from the neighbourhood of Aden presented to the National Museum by Col. R. Meinertzhagen there occurs a small black hedgehog, which it seemed natural to suppose would be the black animal—*Paraechinus niger sabæus*—only recently described by me from that part of Arabia. But on studying its skull I find that it is entirely different, and apparently more nearly allied either to the *P. dorsalis* group or to the Indian *P. micropus*.

It may be called

Paraechinus oniscus, sp. n.

Size small. Spines of average length, on the centre of the back about 24-25 mm. long. General colour black, the spines of the back black at base and tip, with two dull whitish rings on them—subbasal and subterminal,—but these are so much hidden as scarcely to affect the general colour; spines on sides with minute and inconspicuous pale tips. Whole of under surface, from chin to anus, uniformly smoky

black. Face blackish, with irregular whitish markings over the eyes and at the base of the ears. Ears of medium size, their hairs blackish outside and whitish in. Hands, feet, and the short tail wholly black.

Skull small, about as in *P. micropus* or *niger seniculus*, broad and stoutly built behind, quite unlike the long narrow skull of the *P. niger* group, more as in *P. micropus*. Pterygoid region constructed essentially as in *P. micropus*, but with a tendency towards the greater posterior spreading and inflation found in the extreme large-bulla section of the genus (*dorsalis* and allies); thus, while the least breadth across the choanæ outside is less than in *micropus* (5.4 mm.), the breadth across the posterior external notches of the pterygoids is double this breadth (11 mm.), while in *micropus* the two breadths are subequal. Mesopterygoid fossa narrow, parallel-sided, longer than in *micropus*; the shelf in front of it narrow. Bullæ in size about as in *micropus*, conspicuously smaller than in *dorsalis* and the large-bulla species of the genus.

Teeth about as in *micropus*, with the same reduction and crushing-in of i^2 and p^3 .

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body (c.) 155 mm.; tail 16; hind foot 27.

Skull: condylo-basal length 44; zygomatic breadth 27.5; interorbital breadth 12.7; intertemporal breadth 10.8; palatal length 24; breadth of mesopterygoid fossa 2.8; length of bulla 8.3; combined length of p^4 and two anterior molars 10.7.

Hab. (of type). Fayush, 7 miles north of Sheikh Othman, near Aden.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 22.8.9.2. Collected 21st March, 1922, and presented by Col. R. Meinertzhagen, D.S.O.

This highly interesting little hedgehog is, on the whole, confirmatory of the view that the small-bulla and the large-bulla groups of *Paraechinus* should not be subgenerically separated, for while it has quite small bullæ, as in the one group, it has a marked tendency to the more spreading and inflated pterygoids of the other. On the whole, its skull is most like that of *P. micropus*, but the difference in its pterygoids and its totally different external coloration give rise to some doubt as to whether it is really most nearly allied to that species, or whether it is rather a small-bulla relative of the species with extra large bullæ, such as *P. dorsalis*. But, in any case, it is an exceedingly distinct species, whose discovery near Aden is very unexpected.